

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2010. Claims 7 and 8 are new. Claim 7 is supported, for example, in the specification on page 13, lines 20-22. Claim 8 is supported, for example, in the specification on page 13, lines 12-16. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are pending.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected as being unpatentable over Miura (US Publication No. 2002/0183873) in view of Kikuchi (US Patent No. 6,574,422). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an information recording and reproducing apparatus that recites, among other features, that the reproduction control signals are recorded at an equal interval in portions where analog video and audio information is recorded.

The combination of Miura and Kikuchi does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection relies on the navigation packs 86 shown in Figure 11 of Kikuchi for teaching the reproduction control signals of claim 1. However, the navigation packs 86 of Kikuchi cannot be interpreted as the reproduction control signals of claim 1.

Kikuchi teaches that the navigation packs 86 includes a pack header 110a, playback control information/presentation control information (PCI) packet 116, and a data search information (DSI) packet 117 that allow the user to change camera angles while watching an object picture (see column 15, line 37-column 16, line 12 of Kikuchi). In contrast, the present application defines reproduction control signals as being used to calculate the total recording time T2, and are recorded onto the magnetic tape medium 1 simultaneously when analog video and audio information is recorded thereon (see page 13, lines 8-14 of the present application). An example of the reproduction control signals of claim 1 include rectangular signals of 30 pulses per second that are recorded onto a VHS magnetic tape medium when analog NTSC video and audio information are recorded on the medium (see page 13, lines 16-20 of the present application). Thus, even under a broad interpretation of Kikuchi, the navigation packs 86 of Kikuchi cannot be interpreted as the reproduction control signals of claim 1.

Also, even if the navigation packs 86 are interpreted as the reproduction control signals of claim 1, Figure 11 of Kikuchi does not teach or suggest that the navigation packs 86 are recorded at an equal interval in portions where analog video and audio information is recorded.

Figure 11 of Kikuchi merely provides a view for explaining the contents of a navigation pack (see column 5, lines 31-32 of Kikuchi) and does not teach or suggest where the navigation packs 86 are recorded. Furthermore, Figures 9 and 10 of Kikuchi show the navigation packs 86 are read out from the optical disc 10 at unequal intervals and does not teach or suggest where the navigation packs 86 are recorded. Moreover, nowhere does Kikuchi indicate that the video packs 88 and the audio packs 91 are analog video and audio information, respectively.

Thus, Kikuchi does not teach or suggest reproduction control signals that are recorded at an equal interval in portions where analog video and audio information is recorded. Miura does not overcome these deficiencies of Kikuchi.

For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by the combination of Miura and Kikuchi and should be allowed. Claims 2 and 6 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claim 4 is rejected as being unpatentable over Miura in view of Kikuchi (US Patent No. 6,574,422) and further in view of Kikuchi (US Patent No. 5,870,523). This rejection is traversed. Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

New Claims 7 and 8:

In order to expedite the prosecution of this matter, the following is noted with respect to new claims 7 and 8.

Claim 7 recites that the reproduction control signals are configured to be read when the magnetic tape medium is played back, fast-forwarded or rewound. Neither Miura, Kikuchi nor the combination of Miura and Kikuchi teach or suggest these features.

Nowhere does Miura teach or suggest reproduction control signals. Accordingly, nowhere can Miura teach or suggest reproduction control signals that are configured to be read when the magnetic tape medium is played back, fast-forwarded or rewound, as required by claim 7.

Also, the rejection of claim 1 interprets the navigation packs 86 of Kikuchi as teaching the reproduction control signals. However, nowhere does Kikuchi teach or suggest that the navigation packs 86 are configured to be read when a magnetic tape medium is played back, fast-forwarded or rewound.

For at least these reasons claim 7 is not suggested by Miura, Kikuchi or the combination thereof and should be allowed.

Claim 8 recites that the reproduction signals are not present in the portions of the digital recording medium where the analog video and audio information is not recorded. Neither Miura, Kikuchi nor the combination of Miura and Kikuchi teach or suggest these features.

Nowhere does Miura teach or suggest reproduction control signals. Accordingly, nowhere can Miura teach or suggest that reproduction signals are not present in the portions of the digital recording medium where the analog video and audio information is not recorded, as required by claim 8.

Also, the rejection of claim 1 interprets the navigation packs 86 of Kikuchi as teaching the reproduction control signals. However, nowhere does Kikuchi teach or suggest that the navigation packs 86 are not present in the portions of the digital recording medium where the analog video and audio information is not recorded.

For at least these reasons claim 8 is not suggested by Miura, Kikuchi or the combination thereof and should be allowed.

Conclusion:

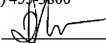
Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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